

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BERLIN 05161 301835Z

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USMISSION USBERLIN UNN

AMEMBSSY PRAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 5161

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GW, GE

SUBJECT: GDR EDITORIAL ON CDU/CSU CHAIRMAN CARSTENS

1. NEUES DEUTSCHLAND(ND) POLITICLA COMMENTATOR " DR. K"
(DEPUTY EDITOR DR. GUENTER KERTZSCHER) LANCED A
TYPICALLY HARSH EDITORIAL AT THE WEST GERMA N CDU/CSU AND
ITS CHAIRMAN KARL CARSTENS IN ND JANUARY 30. UNDER THE
HEADING " ADVOACATE OF THEDEVIL", KERTZSCHER TAKES OUT
AFTER CARSTENS COMMENTS DURING THE JAUNARY 29 FRG BUNDESTAG
DEBATE ON SPD CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT'S" STATE OF THE NATION"
REPORT HE ACCUSES THE CDU/CSU CHAIMAN OF OUTDOING HIMSELF
IN HIS OPPOSITION TO PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE AN NORMALIZED
RELATIONS BETWEEN THE FRG AND GDR. IN ACCUSING CARTSENS
OF COLD WAR TONES, REVANCHISM, AND DISRGEARD FOR TH
HELSINKI FINAL DCUMENT , KERTZSCHER FOCUSES ON THE FORMER'S
STAEMENT THAT GERMANY CONTINUES TO EXIST LEGALLY IN ITS
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PAGE 02 BERLIN 05161 301835Z

1937 BOUDNARIESS. FOR " DR. K.", THIS STATEMENT IS AT

VARIANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLE OF THE INVIOLABILITY OF BOUNDARIES AGREED UPON AT HELSINKI AND THUS CARSTENS STANDS IN OPPOSITION TO THE 35 STATES WHO SIGNED THE DOCUMENT. KERTZSCHER CONCLUDES WITH HIS FAVORITE EDITORIAL TACTIC BY LINKING CARSTENS TO THE NAZI PAST: CARSTENS STUDIED LAW IN THE NAZI ERA AND STILL "THINKS AND ACTS" ACCORDING TO CATEGORIES ASSOCIATED WITH RIBBENTROP.

2. COMMENT: KERTZSCHER'S SCATHING EDITORIAL GIVES A PRIME EXAMPLE OF HOW THE GDR HAS USED HELSINKI FOR PROPAGANDA PURPOSE IN ITS ONGOING EDITORIAL DEBATE WITH THE FRG ON THE GERMAN QUESTION. HIS PERSONAL ATTACK ON CARSTENS FOLLOWS ON THE HEELS OF RECENT AD HOMINEM ATTACKS AT EAST BERLIN GOVERNING MAYOR KLAUS SCHUETZ AND FRG DEFMIN GEORG LEBER AND IS FURTHER PROOF THAT THE GDR IS TAKING THE OFFENSIVE IN ITS COMMENTARIES ON THE FRG IN THE WAKE OF THE FORCED ADOPTION AFFAIR. AND FOR KERTZSCHER, EVOKING THE NAZI PAST IN HIS ATTACKS ON THE FRG HAS BECOME A STANDARD PRACTICE OF LATE. IN RECENT EDITORIALS ON FRG MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE FORCED ADOPTION STORY AND A ZDF MAGAZINE SEGMENT ON LABOR CAMPS IN THE SOVIET UNION, HE ACCUSED THE ADVERSARY OF ACTING IN THE SPIRIT OF GOEBBELS. KERTZSCHER'S ATTACKS TAKE ON AN IRONIC TINGE IN LIGHT OF HIS OWN DOCUMENTED MEMBERSHIP IN THE NAZI PARTY AND THE SA BEFORE HIS CONVERSION TO COMMUNISM THROUGH THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE FREE GERMANY IN A SOVIET PRISONER OF WAR CAMP IN 1943. GROVE

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